

No Civilized Man Wants to Live Where There Are No Churches—Go to Church!

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The church is the best institution the world has ever known from every standpoint—moral, economic and political. It has changed the world from HEATHENISM TO CIVILIZATION, from SLAVERY TO FREEDOM, from MIGHT TO RIGHT, from DARKNESS TO LIGHT, from MISERY TO HAPPINESS. Compare the conditions prevailing in heathen lands with those of Christian countries; the forms of government in the dark ages to those of the Christian lands today.

CAN ANY ONE BELIEVING IN GOD GIVE ANY REASON FOR NOT GOING TO CHURCH? THE CHURCH STANDS FOR THE PURITY AND SANCTITY OF THE HOME, THE PURITY AND RECTITUDE OF PERSONAL LIFE, THE HIGHEST MORALS, THE BEST LAWS. IT STANDS FOR JUSTICE, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GOOD GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE GREAT INSTIGATOR AND PATRON OF ALL TRUE BENEVOLENCE. SKEPTICISM NEVER FOUNDED AN ASYLUM. THE CHURCH, NOT INFIDELITY, HAS FOUNDED THE GREAT ELEEMOSYNARY INSTITUTIONS OF THE LAND.

The value of the church cannot be estimated. No civilized man wants to live where there is no church. He wants it for its influence, if for nothing else. Take the church out of any town or city and the citizen will take himself out. Take the church out and all evil will prevail, and from an economic standpoint property becomes worthless.

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS TO SAVE THE WORLD. DOES IT MERIT ANYTHING AT THE HANDS OF ITS PROFFERED FOLLOWERS? IF SO, LET US STAND BY IT AND ATTEND ITS SERVICES. IT IS A DUTY AS WELL AS A PLEASURE. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY WILL NOT DOWN. LET US ASSUME IT CHEERFULLY AND RESPOND VALIANTLY.

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GO EVERY SUNDAY!



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DIVINE PROVIDENCE.

(By Rev. N. R. Stone, Ph.D.)
In 1812, when Napoleon proposed to invade and conquer Russia, the Russian Ambassador said to him: "Sire, remember that man proposes, but God disposes." Napoleon, in a haughty and arrogant manner, replied: "I give you to understand that I am he that proposes and he that disposes." This was no less than a challenge to the Almighty. God did not stir from his throne, but sent disease of man in the form of the snow, which brought the great Napoleon to a most humiliating defeat. When he retreated from Moscow, he had only 25,000 men. He lost in the campaign 315,000 men and 100,000 horses. The greatest army of the century met its doom. The destruction of Sennacherib's army before Jerusalem was not more signal. And Napoleon was taught the important lesson that God may not be on the side of the haughty. "Man proposes, but God disposes."
God rules in all the realms of nature and in their minutiae as in their magnitudes. He holds the universe together and sustains all the orbs of heaven. He cares for the sparrow and numbers the hairs of our heads. He sends the sunshine and the rain and gives the seedtime and the harvest. God is as truly the Preserver of all things as he is their Creator, and without his control and intervention the whole system of the universe would fall to pieces and nothing would remain except a chaotic mass of matter. There is no more evidence of a designing mind in nature than there is in human history. The earth and the heavens, nations, seasons, harvests, rulers, the allotment of human life are all subject to a designing Providence. "I know that God's way is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." "The Lord killeth and maketh alive; he bringeth down to the grave and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor and maketh rich; he bringeth low and lifteth up." "For by strength shall no man prevail."
Edward Everett Hale, in his story "Hands Off," shows how our shortsighted policy is not permitted to interfere with God's all-wise providence. He supposes a man in great sympathy with Joseph while in the hands of the Midianites. The first night out Joseph would make his escape from his captors. While all are asleep he quietly slips out and just reaches the outer limits of the camp when a yellow dog barks, awakes his captors, and Joseph was returned to his captivity. The on-looker wanted to interfere and kill the dog before he had awakened the camp. Then Joseph would have reached home in safety, and great sorrow would have been avoided. But this guardian angel said: "Hands off." If Joseph had made his escape, what then? His father would have rejoiced and Joseph would have been saved a term of prison life. What else? There would have been no Joseph in Egypt to lay up corn, and when famine came Palestine and Egypt would have starved, and Jacob's family would have all died. Civilization would have been destroyed, Egypt blotted out. Greece and Rome would have remained in a barbarous state. The history of the world would have been changed, and countless evils would have come because a man in his ignorance killed a dog to save Joseph from present trouble.

At many a pivotal point a very small thing might have changed the whole course of human history. Suppose, when Abraham was offering up Isaac, the angel that stayed his hand, had been thirty seconds later; then imagine, if you can, the final results on the history of the world. Or suppose a rat had gnawed a hole in the bottom of Noah's ark, or the crocodile of the Nile had destroyed Moses, or the water of the Red Sea had closed in on the children of Israel as it did on Pharaoh's army. To leave God out of any of these things suggested might have happened. Who is so blind that he cannot see an all-wise Providence at every turn in human history?
What if the oil had fallen in the cuse and the meal in the barrel had given out and Elijah had starved? Then there would have been an eternal drought in Israel. Daniel slept with the lions rather than renounce his faith in God. It was not an accident that the great fish picked up Jonah and delivered him up. The three Hebrew children went through the fire, but God was with them. It is better to go through the fire here with God than to go through it hereafter without him. "The righteous is delivered out of all his trouble, and the wicked come in his stead." So it was in the case of Haman and Mordecai.
John Knox had many enemies who sought his destruction. He was in the habit of sitting in a particular chair with his back to the window. One evening, however, he would not sit in that chair nor allow any one else to do so. That very evening a bullet was sent through the window with a design to kill him. He was saved by a preventing Providence. There are no accidents, and nothing happens by chance. There is a designing Mind in all human events. Cowper, the great hymn writer, when in advanced age lost his mental balance and planned suicide. He engaged a coachman to take him to a certain place on the river, intending to drown himself. But the driver lost his way, we say providentially, and was so belated that the trip was abandoned. The suicidal spell was broken. Cowper returned to his home and wrote that popular hymn:

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants his footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm.
Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never-failing skill,
He treasures up his bright designs,
And works his sovereign will."
Providence has to do with rulers and nations. With all the tricks of designing men in politics, it may indeed appear that God has no part in elections and election campaigns. Yet I am sure that now, as in the time of Israel, there is an overruling Providence in State and governmental affairs. Israel clamored for a king, and the Lord gave them Saul. He became a very wicked king, and the Lord had David anointed in his stead. Saul used every trick known to politics to keep David from being king, but the men whom God favors for office cannot be beaten. And that fact is as true now as then. "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule and nobles, even all the judges of the earth." "For

promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south, but God is the Judge, and he putteth down one and setteth up another." God wrote the destiny of Belshazzar on the wall with his own hand and took the kingdom from him and gave it to the Medes and Persians.

Providence, as it is his purpose often, is hid from sight. Our strongest trials turn out to be our greatest blessings. A friend said to Dr. Peyton in his illness: "It is too bad that you have to lie here flat on your back." Peyton smiled and said: "We can best look up when we lie on our backs." All sunshine makes a desert. Cloudless skies mean barrenness. The sunshine is beautiful, but the clouds are a necessity. The days that are dark and dreary are not the days that are lost. They are like tunnels leading from light to light.

If we must pass through the crucible, it is only to separate the dross from the pure metal and make us more valuable. Common steel, such as is used in railroad tracks, is worth \$25 or \$30 per ton; but if made into watch springs it would be worth at least \$2,000,000 per ton. But to reach that high value it must go through the fire. God is all the time trying to temper us and make us more valuable. The night puts the color in the rose. The eternal stars come out as soon as it is dark enough.

You shall not have greater trials than you are able to bear. It is said that the eagle builds her nest on the edge of a high bluff; and when the young eaglets are old enough, she tears up the nest and pushes them off the bluff to teach them to fly. If they fall, she darts under them and catches them on her back and carries them back to the nest. She repeats this exercise day after day until they are able to balance themselves in mid-air, and then fly away. If God destroys your nest, he builds a new one for you. Trials, do not despair; he will not let you fall. Underneath you are the everlasting arms. The eagle soars up and up until it reaches the ethereal realms far above the earth. So God is trying to purify our natures and lift us above the sordid things of earth into the realm of greater glory and delight.

"So I go on, not knowing,
I would not if I might;
I would rather walk in the dark with God
Than walk alone in the light."

RESTORING KENTUCKY'S SOIL.

(Lexington Leader.)

Hon. John W. Newman, Commissioner of Agriculture of Kentucky, has a theory—not altogether original with him—which he is preparing to demonstrate by practical processes, and if his conclusions are sound he will erect for himself a most enduring monument in the memories of the farmers of Kentucky.

He believes that through extravagant and unwise husbandry the farm lands of Kentucky have been so impoverished that their productive qualities are now reduced to at least fifty per cent of what they should be, but he is also convinced that the farmers of Kentucky have the means at hand to restore these lands to the highest possible degree of fertility.

In most of the counties in Kentucky, Mr. Newman said to the editor of The Leader, the farm lands have become so acidulated that they will no longer produce the leguminous plants, such as clover, cow peas, soy beans and alfalfa in bulk sufficient to properly feed the soil with those elements necessary to sustain fertility, and as a result the production of wheat, corn, tobacco, hemp, etc., is constantly diminishing.

The legumes, especially clover and cow peas, where the soil is favorable to them, through the action of the bacterial life which attaches to their roots, cause the soil to absorb from the atmosphere deposits of nitrogen which under normal conditions has a fertilizing value of at least \$25 per acre.

Where clover, peas and other leguminous plants will not grow, replenishing of the soil by this method is impossible and it becomes more and more unfit for successful cultivation.

This fault, says Commissioner Newman, can easily be overcome and at small cost. The secret lies in the application to the land of pulverized limestone in the proportion of four tons to the acre, which will correct the acidity of the soil and cause it to yield bountifully of the leguminous plants, and Commissioner Newman has already undertaken to demonstrate his theory by purchasing two crushing machines which he will use in different parts of the State and with which he will pulverize limestone for free distribution to the farmers. One of these machines will shortly be set up in Fayette county.

Commissioner Newman is convinced that if the application of limestone is immediately followed by the sowing of red clover or cow peas, the succeeding crop of wheat, corn and other food crop will be increased in some instances one hundred per cent. At any rate, he appears to be willing to stake his reputation on the assertion.

Commissioner Newman is very enthusiastic over this matter and declares that the time will come when the limestone hills of Kentucky will be regarded as more valuable to the people of the state as a whole than are the coal mines.

Limestone, he says, can be crushed at a cost of about fifty cents a ton. A machine for doing the work can be bought for \$750. He expects that co-operative farmers' societies will eventually buy these machines for neighborhood use.

"Soil building" is a hobby with Commissioner Newman, and surely every man who is interested in the welfare of the State will wish him success in his efforts to make his dreams come true, for without the agriculture wealth of Kentucky her people would be poor indeed.

Naturally, it is to be assumed that the application of limestone is only one of a number of things which may have to be done in order to fully restore soil that is worn or to make productive lands that have always been barren, but Mr. Newman evidently is convinced that the Almighty, in placing the vast deposits of limestone at the very back door of the Kentucky farmer, has made it possible for him to make his lands blossom as the rose throughout all time.

Quite a hail storm visited several parts of this county on Friday last.

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